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Cuts mean 'perfect storm' of airport delays: White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Obama administration warned Monday of a "perfect storm" of airport delays and less secure US borders when huge spending cuts hit this week, but a top Republican slammed White House "scare" tactics.

Political acrimony escalated another notch ahead of \$85 billion of cuts, known as the sequester, due to slam the government on March 1, but there was no sign of any effort by Democrats or Republicans to break the impasse.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano warned of the consequences of the cuts, as she became the latest cabinet official enrolled in a countrywide White House media blitz intended to pile blame on Republicans.

"At the major international airports, we will be limited in accepting new international flights, and average wait times to clear customs will increase by as much as 50 percent," Napolitano said.

"At our busiest airports ... peak wait times, which can reach over two hours, could easily grow to four hours or more," Napolitano said, warning that budget cuts would hit security and customs officers at major hubs.

"You really have a perfect storm in terms of the ability to move around the country," she said, adding that waits at the southwest US land border could be five hours, and delays for cargo at American ports could last five days.

Napolitano also said that reduced overtime, furloughs and hiring freezes for border agents would make the US border less secure and make it harder to stop illegal immigration.

While stopping short of saying that the United States would be more prone to terror attacks, she said sequestration would make the work of securing the country "awfully, awfully tough."

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Mr. Ken Kay honored by ATA at Quality Apartments Aruba



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very loyal and friendly gentleman, as Ambassador of Goodwill at the Quality Apartments. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years. The honoree was Mr. Ken Kaye from Ontario Canada. Ken loves Aruba very much because of the friendly people of Aruba, the beaches, the beautiful weather, casinos, safety and the family atmosphere and lots of memories and the relaxation. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ken's companion Mrs. Ana Amatto, Ms. Janique Schilders and Ms. Marisella Tromp representing the Quality Apartments.



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N.V. Elmar launches prepaid meters as pilot project



In an effort to provide more and even better service to their clients, Aruba's electricity distribution company, Elmar N.V. recently presented their innovative project to the community. They have officially launched the introduction of prepaid meters. These will be installed in the Noord and San Nicolaas barrios as a pilot project. Prepaid meters will be made available to residents in and around these barrios.

According to Elmar, the prepaid meters function very much like the traditional post paid meters and can be suited to both 110 as well as 220 volts with ease. The meter is affixed to the outside wall of the house, while inside a small box is installed close to an electrical outlet. Upon installation the client receives instruction about the functioning of the equipment as well as a user manual.

The system reportedly has various benefits. The system allows the client to control their use and their expenses. This enables the client to reduce their electrical consumption, pay on time and eliminate monthly bills.

The system uses a token. The client purchases a token of the value of his choosing. For example, a Afls.100 token or whatever amount the client perceives to need for his consumption over a certain period. Elmar, in turn assures the client that he receives the amount for which he purchased. The minimal token amount is Afls.5. When the purchased amount is about to finish, the meter will alert the client to have his meter recharged.

The meter tokens are available for purchase at the following locations: Valero Essoville, Valero Palm Beach, Texaco Sasaki and at Elmar N.V. Two contact persons at Elmar regarding prepaid meters are: Soraya Croes at tel. 523-7124 and Jared Tromp at tel. 523-7143. To apply for a prepaid meter one needs to register for this at Elmar in Oranjestad.

Elmar wants to alert the community that the prepaid meters carry the same tariffs as the traditional meters, they cost the same; the only difference is that the client controls how much he spends which could result in a monthly saving.

Seismic Vessel begins exploring for gas or petrol around Aruba

In connection with the exploration for gas or petrol in Aruban waters, which has begun in earnest at the Northern side of Aruba, Repsol and CAP representatives invited a group of individuals to get acquainted with their Seismic Vessel. On February 15 a group of invited guests received a tour of the interesting vessel.

Repsol representative in Aruba, Willy Hernandez, reported that the first trial period is divided into three phases. During the first phase, to take one and a half years, they will acquire the ship to do the seismic re-



search of the Northern side.

They explained that during the entire process of the exploration, they will be mindful of fishermen in the area. They will take measures of mitigation with every sector, such as fishermen, divers, etc. according to Hernandez.

There will be three ships at sea. One ship will carry all the measuring and registration apparatus, while the two other ships will be helping with the process. At the more sensible zones they will perform a pre-scouting two days in advance to study what kind of

animals are in the area and what is their behavior. With respect to mitigation measures, these will be done periodically within one and three days to ensure that all is done correctly and well.

Finally, they indicated that the objective of the exploratory phase is to acquire a seismic campaign with data of the best possible quality and to ensure that there is no damage to the environment nor to the health of persons.

On the other hand, the technical objective is to determine where there are structures containing hydrocarbon. The final confirmation of the presence of hydrocarbon will determine the perforation point.



search. This will be followed by the second phase, which will also take one and a half years during which time they will receive the seismic studies in 3dimension. This will be followed by a period of three years during which time they will dig an exploratory well based on the results of their seismic analysis.

They expect to cover some 4 thousand kilometers during the next 40 days during this first phase of explorations. According to Willy Hernandez, the farthest point they will go for explorations is 60 miles from the coast of Aruba. And, the closest will be the protected area of 3 kilometers from the coast where no activities will be conducted. The total area to be covered will be 14 thousand square kilometers and will entail the area south of Aruba as well as a major part

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The "Art Project" auction a huge success



Last Friday, NOW! Strategy and Design organized an art auction created by customers and business relations of the advertising agency.

At the end of December 2012, NOW! distributed nearly 100 art packages to its customers with the question to make a piece of art to benefit Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad, thus paint for a good cause.

The upper floor of authentic Art Gallery | Restaurant

Que Pasa was a perfect location for this evening and the project turned out to be a big success.

The auctioneer created a lot of excitement during the bidding process and more than 30 paintings were offered to the crowd. Some bids reached way over Afl. 1,000. More than 80 attendees were bidding on the presented paintings and at the end of the night over Afl. 17,000 was collected.

Indra Stamper of the FPNC was very impressed by this great result, the full proceeds of the auction will be donated to Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad.

"We can use all help to fight poverty on our island," Indra mentioned. FPNC is a foundation that supports vulnerable groups and voluntary initiatives in the Aruban community. Separate from the fact that many people will be helped with this project, it is also nice to mention that the creative incentive of this project produced a lot of new artists. It was a fun entertainment for participants and definitely worth repeating!

Bon Bini Festival is tonight!



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by "Nos Ambiente," folkloric music by Tipico Ola Tropical, dance performance by "The Bon Bini Dancers, soloist performing will be Veloushka Krozendijk and brass band TBS.

The event will be hosted by Ryan Maduro.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$5.

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Exclusive interview with Bruce Willis now starring in a “A Good Day to Die Hard

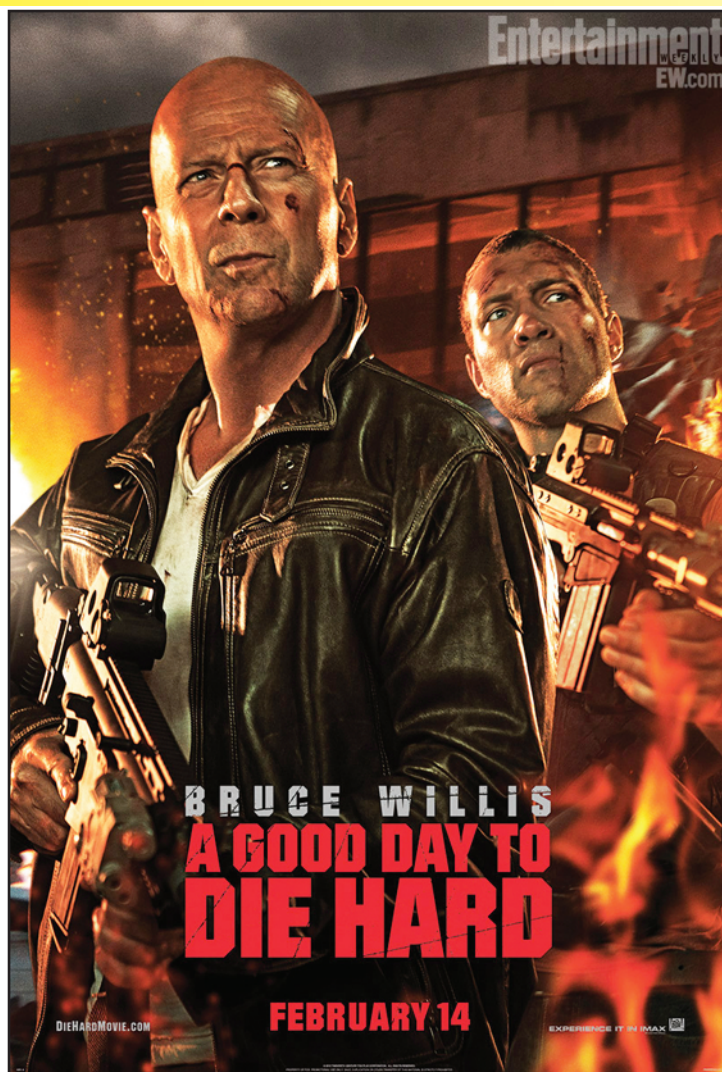
by The Morning News special Hollywood correspondent Noel de Souza

Noel tells us "I've interviewed Bruce Willis several times through the years but have never known him to be so mellow and friendly as he was at our recent interview meeting, which took place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. Bruce entered the room all smiles and with a tap on my shoulder he said "How ya doing?" I wondered could it be his recent marriage and fatherhood or could it be that he's back again in a Die Hard movie that has brought on this happy friendliness." Now appearing in local theaters in the fifth installment of the enormously successful Die Hard series, he brings back a beloved and iconic character he has played for 25 years.

NDS: THIS MOVIE IS WALL TO WALL ACTION, IT'S ALL VERY IMPRESSIVE. WAS IT ALL CGI OR WAS IT REAL?

BW: There was very little CGI, as director John Moore was pretty insistent on making it all happen on the streets. Scenes like that are composite; I would say that they took six weeks to shoot. When there were those difficult and dangerous scenes to shoot we'd go to a specific location and no one would get hurt. I had a couple of really good experiences where I got to drive that big green truck through Budapest at pretty high speeds. They have shut down some of the streets for me and I just took advantage of it, just drove like a maniac. I didn't hit any one or any thing. It turned out to be really exciting.

NDS: IN THE FILM YOU HAVE AN ESTRANGED RELATIONSHIP WITH



YOUR SON. I KNOW YOU ONLY HAVE DAUGHTERS BUT WHAT HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH WITH THEM? I ASK THIS IN RELATIONSHIP TO A LINE YOU HAVE IN THE FILM, REFERRING TO YOUR SON, "THE SHIT THAT YOU DO FOR YOUR CHILDREN"

BW: That line implies you do it because you love your children, you do the craziest things in the world because you love them. I myself have done very crazy things. When my daughter Tallulah was three or four years old I

was away filming in Rome and I was on the phone with her and she said, "Daddy, come home," I got on a plane on the weekend and went home, saw her and then went back. It's not that it was a crazy thing to do, but it was a complicated thing to do; leave a shoot and go away for two days. I never considered it a problem.

NDS: WOULD YOU CALL THIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE?

BW: I'd just call it love. It's my love that I have for those kids and the time that I want to spend with them, goof

around with them. Now my daughters are grown up and are in their twenties, Tallulah just turned 19 and there was a section of time when I didn't quite know what kind of adults they were going to turn into, but they have turned into really great women. They have great morals, great ethics, and they are kind to people. They are intelligent and I couldn't have asked for more; I am so pleased.

NDS: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE'S A DIFFERENCE TO RAISING A SON THAN RAISING A DAUGHTER?

BW: It's not that dissimilar. We always raised our daughters to have their own voice to not let any one shut them down and tell them that they shouldn't be able to speak their minds or have an opinion. Now that they are older I hear their opinions and I am pleased that they have the courage to speak up for themselves, be opinionated, which I highly approve of.

NDS: YOU ARE A FATHER ONCE AGAIN. IS THERE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN BEING A FATHER NOW THAN IT WAS WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST BORN?

BW: Not as much as you would think. One of the things that makes it easier for me is that I pretty much stay in shape and I can run and jump and play and do those things. The actual mechanics of being a father are great, I feel like I have the same amount of love, if not more. I like getting up early and looking after Mabel, it's very exciting and it makes me very happy.

NDS: TELL ME ABOUT YOUR NEW WIFE.

BW: About Emma? She's just great. She's a great mom and she's a first time mom. She's truly very smart and reserved and I just love her so much. Maybe you'll get to meet her.

NDS: MAYBE I WILL, BUT UNTIL I DO, COULD YOU FILL ME IN A LITTLE ABOUT HER? SHE IS A MODEL ISN'T SHE?

BW: She did some modeling. She had a great modeling career when she was younger. You should see her in a bathing suit. She's a great mom. Getting married again, I get a lot of compliments from people who have gone through the same thing. I get a kind of praise for having just continued moving forward and not have it be incendiary or a problem.

NDS: YOU HAVE HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL CAREER. HOW WOULD YOU RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 'DIE HARD' FRANCHISE IN YOUR CAREER AND IN YOUR STATUS IN THIS BUSINESS?

BW: I have a very warm spot in my heart for DIE HARD. Just the sheer novelty of being able to play the same character over 25 years and still be asked back is fun. It's much more challenging to have to do a film again and try to compete with myself, which is what I do. I don't feel that I compete with other actors or other films and so I try to improve myself with every one of them. I may get to do different things and look different and it's still accepted by the public who come out to see the film, it's an amazing thing.

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Exclusive interview with Bruce Willis...

Continued from pg 4

What has it done for me career-wise? It has afforded me the opportunity to work with good directors and to do things way outside of DIE HARD. I've done comedy, worked with great actors and had a ball doing it, so I get to do both things and keep myself happy. I work when I want to and get to take time off when I want to.

NDS: LOOKING BACK AT YOUR CAREER, WHAT ARE YOU THE MOST PROUD OF TODAY?

BW: Let me be honest here, I have a couple of handfuls of films that didn't make as much noise as I would have liked them to. Everybody tries all the time; all actors do. All film-makers try to do something great every time, but not every film gets noticed and not every performance works out. So I just try and try and some films get noticed. I did a small film called LOOPER; I love that film. What I was doing in the film was based on romance and it's such a peculiar story because, as you know. I had to kill kids so my wife in the future could stay alive. It didn't work but it was a very complicated story, I liked what they were aiming for in the film, it's very interesting.

Ed: Mr. De Sousa commented that he was sorry to see his time with Mr. Willis end, but he left the interview with the definite feeling the veteran star is in a very good place in his life right now. He is still a very busy actor, a sterling professional success and extremely happy in his home life, eager to share it with everyone.

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Protest party savours Italian election success

GENOA, Italy (AFP) - Supporters of a new Italian anti-austerity party led by former comedian Beppe Grillo celebrated early results pointing to a stunning electoral success on Monday that could turn the movement into the country's third biggest political force.

In Grillo's home town of Genoa in northwest Italy, the beer flowed at a local bar -- the Mente Locale -- where candidates and activists crowded in to cheer as pre-

liminary results showed they might have won as much as a quarter of the vote.

Dozens of mostly young candidates -- some close to the minimum age of 25 and many with little or no political experience -- are set to enter parliament for the first time as Italians fed up with austerity and corruption flocked to their ranks.

"This is an extremely strong sign of change," said Stefano Camisasso, a candidate for the Five Star Move-

ment (M5S) for the Senate, containing his euphoria as he planned the move to Rome.

Another candidate, Cristina De Pietro, said she was still in shock as she watched a television.

"This is a moment when you feel a bit weird because we are ordinary citizens, we don't have political experience," she said.

"We have a lot to learn," she said.

Asked what she made of the early results, she said

simply: "This is what Italy needed!"

Grillo, a bushy-haired 63-year-old, took to the campaign trail in a camper van, travelling to rallies across the country which drew large crowds of young people, pensioners and women sick of traditional politicians tainted by scandals.

The Internet-based movement has called for Italy's public debt to be cancelled and for a referendum on whether to stay in the euro-

zone, as well as advocating for a 20-hour working week.

It grew out of Grillo's popular blog and forced Italy's main parties to take it seriously when it won the highest number of votes for any single party in regional elections in Sicily last year.

M5S proposals are also driven by a mix of economic populism and idealism -- from free Internet for everyone and electronic tablets for all school children, to a green economy.

Cuts mean 'perfect storm' of airport delays: White House

Continued from pg 1



The idea for the automatic, arbitrary budget cuts emerged as a way to ease a previous showdown between Obama and Republicans in Congress.

The massive reductions to the military and domestic budget were supposed to be so severe that both sides would be forced into a deal to cut the deficit. But such is Washington's dysfunction, no agreement has been reached.

Obama on Monday hit out at the polarized political atmosphere in the US capital, telling his foes at some point they had to agree to govern.

The president is calling on congressional Republicans to agree to stave off the cuts by

closing tax loopholes that benefit the rich and corporations to raise new revenues, along with a program of targeted spending cuts.

"We can't just cut our way to prosperity. Cutting alone is not an economic policy," Obama told Democratic and Republican governors at the White House.

Many Republicans agree that the sequester is a bad way to trim the budget and reduce the deficit but they argue that Obama is not serious about reining in spending.

Bobby Jindal, the Republican governor of Louisiana, who is a possible 2016 presi-

dential candidate, emerged from the meeting with Obama and issued a searing attack on the president's handling of the sequester.

"There is a responsible way to cut less than three percent of the federal budget," Jindal told reporters. "I think it is time for the president to show leadership. This administration has an insatiable appetite for new revenues."

"Enough is enough. The president needs to stop campaigning, stop trying to scare the American people."

The cuts will slash defense spending by at least \$55 billion and non-defense discretionary spending by \$27 billion this year.

The Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington estimates that one million jobs could be lost.

The Congressional Budget Office predicts growth, already down by 0.1 percent last quarter, could slip 0.7 percent as government departments and related businesses stagger under the sequester's impact.

World powers have 'good offer' for Iran nuclear talks

MOSCOW (AFP) - World powers will present Iran with an updated and "good" offer at talks this week on its nuclear programme, an EU official said Monday, although hopes for a breakthrough were slim.

Talks aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear drive start in Kazakhstan Tuesday, with the so-called 5+1 world powers represented by the European Union sitting down with an Iranian team led by its top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili.

"We have prepared a good and updated offer for the talks, which we believe is balanced and a fair basis for constructive talks," said the spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton.

"The offer addresses international concerns... on the nature of the Iranian nuclear programme, but is also responsive to Iranian ideas," said the spokesman, Michael Mann.

"We hope that Iran will seize this opportunity and come to the talks with flexibility and commitment to make concrete progress towards a confidence-building step."

A source close to the ne-

gotiations said the offer would still insist that Iran halts enriching uranium to 20 percent, shuts down its controversial Fordo uranium enrichment plant and sends abroad all uranium already enriched to 20 percent.

"This still forms the basis of the demands of the 5+1 group," said the source who asked not to be identified.

Reports have said that Iran could in return be offered a softening of sanctions imposed against it, possibly starting with a lifting of measures against its gold industry.

However Jalili said at the weekend that Tehran would not go beyond its obligations or accept anything outside its rights under the non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

"We don't expect any breakthrough. The Iranians have made different declarations in the last days. It depends if you take the positive or the negative ones," said one Western official who asked not to be identified.

The 5+1 world powers are Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Frostbite ends Fiennes winter Antarctic expedition bid

CAPE TOWN (AFP) - Veteran British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes has pulled out of an attempt at the world's first Antarctic winter crossing due to frostbite, the expedition said Monday.

"This decision has not been taken lightly and it is, naturally, a huge disappointment to Fiennes and his colleagues," the mission, known as The Coldest Journey, said on its website.

The 68-year-old adventurer was injured after falling during a ski training session in temperatures of around

minus 30 Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit), the BBC reported.

"In seeking to re-attach his binding he felt that he couldn't get it on and had to take his glove off in very cold conditions and exposed his hand to snow and as a consequence he has contracted frostbite," said the expedition's Tony Medniuk.

According to the website, Fiennes had "very reluctantly decided" to leave his five fellow explorers while an evacuation was still possible before the start of the Antarctic winter.

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BP accused of greed, lax safety at US oil spill trial

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana (AFP) - Prosecutors accused BP of letting greed triumph over safety Monday in the opening of a multi-billion dollar trial over the devastating 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

A federal judge in New Orleans is tasked with determining how much BP and its subcontractors should pay for the worst environmental disaster in US history.

US prosecutors are determined to prove that gross negligence caused the April 20, 2010 blast that killed 11 workers and sank the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig, sending millions of barrels of oil gushing into the sea.

The US government plans to introduce ample evidence of "systemic problems of corporate recklessness" and how a "culture of disregard to safety" led to the blowout, said Michael Underhill, lead trial counsel for the United States.

"Reckless actions were tolerated, sometimes encouraged by BP to squeeze every dollar," he told the court.

"Every fork in the road, BP chose time and money over safety in the operation of what (one rig worker) called the 'well from hell.'"

BP is equally determined to avoid a finding of gross negligence, which would drastically increase its environmental fines to as much as \$17 billion.

BP is also hoping to shift much of the blame -- and cost -- to rig operator Transocean and subcontractor Halliburton, which was responsible for the runaway well's faulty cement job.

Transocean's poor safety record was the focus of the first lawyer to speak, Jim Roy, who represents thousands of individuals and businesses impacted by the spill through a steering committee.

Roy told the court that the Swiss giant's top safety official on the multimillion dollar rig "was not even minimally competent for this job."

"His training consisted of a three-day course. Amazingly, he had never been aboard the Deepwater Horizon," Roy said, noting that the blowout was the seventh major incident aboard a Transocean rig in the space of 17 months.

Transocean defended its "well-trained" crew whose "death-defying acts of heroism" ensured that "every single man and woman who could have survived, did," and described BP's attempt to shift the blame as "shameful."

"None of this had to happen. It happened because BP was behind schedule and needed to get this done," said Brad Brian, Transocean's lead attorney.

"BP considered another alternative to this: Plug the well and abandon it. but that would have cost over \$10 million."

However, a blizzard has put on hold plans to transport him by snowmobile to Princess Elisabeth Station, which lies around 70 kilometres (43 miles) away from the team's current location.

The plan is then to fly him to Novo for a connecting flight to Cape Town, from where the expedition ship sailed in early January.

The decision to leave was made with the team doctor and in the interests of the success of the journey. The campaign aims to raise \$10 million (7.6 million euros)

for the Seeing is Believing blindness charity.

The remaining five expedition members will press on with the journey and are "in an excellent position" to start the crossing on March 21.

"Sir Ran is leaving but we will carry on," tweeted Ian Prickett who is part of the team.

They hope to be the first to make the over-3,200 kilometre (2,000 mile) crossing in winter.

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International News

Syria says ready for talks with armed rebels

MOSCOW (AFP) - The Syrian regime is ready for talks with armed rebels and anyone who favours dialogue, President Bashar al-Assad's foreign minister said in Moscow on Monday, in the first such offer by a top Syrian official.

Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem was in Moscow for talks with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, whose country is one of the few big powers to still maintain ties with Assad's regime.

Russia has renewed calls for rebels and regime to engage in direct negotiations to end the two-year conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people, warning that pressing for a military victory risked destroying Syria.

Armed rebels have battled the Assad regime since the start of the opposition's uprising against his rule in March 2011 and now control swathes of Syrian territory.

Lavrov said alongside Muallem that there was no alternative to a political solution

to the two-year conflict agreed through talks.

Lavrov added that the situation in Syria was "at the crossroads", with different factions pressing for conflict and talks. But he expressed optimism that a negotiated solution could be found.

Lavrov had said last week there were positive signs from both sides of a new willingness to talk but called on Assad's regime to turn oft-stated words about its readiness for dialogue into deeds.

While Khatib head of the Syrian opposition National Coalition has offered to talk to regime officials without "blood on their hands", the National Coalition has said Assad and the top military command cannot be part of any solution.

Khatib said on Saturday it was pulling out of the 11-nation meeting of the Friends of Syria to protest at the "shameful" inaction of the international community in the face of civilian killings.

EU has open mind on origin labelling as members push for horsemeat action

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission said Monday it has an open mind when it comes to place of origin labels on prepared foods as several member states pushed for the measure to help combat the horsemeat for beef scandal.

EU Health Commissioner Tonio Borg nonetheless said an EU report into the labelling issue -- which was in the works before the crisis broke -- would be brought forward three months so member states could review it earlier.

As more cases were reported across Europe, Borg said a growing number of member states were "in favour of introducing this legislation but ... I have an open mind."

Passing off horsemeat as beef was simple criminal fraud, he insisted, saying that place of origin labels would not have prevented that happening.

Simon Coveney, who as Ireland's agriculture minister chaired Monday's talks in Brussels, said testing was the way forward as only that could



ensure the integrity of the food chain in the future.

Country of origin labelling was positive but the key issue was to use "DNA testing to confirm for consumers that they are eating what they think they are eating," Coveney said.

Earlier this month, EU ministers agreed at an emergency meeting to launch tests for horse DNA in meat products, initially for one month and possibly for three.

In addition, the test programme also looks for the presence of phenylbutazone, an anti-inflammatory treatment for horses which is harmful to humans.

French Agriculture Minister Stephane Le Foll said separately that France, Germany, Britain, Austria and Portugal had all asked for the Commission to bring forward the labelling report.

Rather than the end of the year, it should be made available by the middle of the year, Le Foll said, adding: "I argued that the best would be by June and at the very latest, by September."

Several countries, including Germany, were in favour of putting labels of origin on prepared foods, he said.

(AFP) - A picture grabbed on a video released by on YouTube on February 25, 2013 shows an unidentified man (C) reading a message while Tanguy Moulin-Fournier (background, L) sits next to his wife, Albane (C, wearing a black veil), his brother Cyrille, and their four children flanked by an armed man in an undisclosed place. The family -- a couple, their children aged five, eight, 10 and 12 and an uncle -- was snatched in Cameroon on February 19, 2013 by six armed suspected Islamists on three motorbikes. The more than three-minute video shows the French family, including four children, held in an undisclosed location, surrounded by at least three of the abductors whose faces are hidden and who claim to be from Nigerian Islamist extremist group Boko Haram. A source close to the family confirmed their identities to AFP.



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Health & Living

Anorexia nervosa



-- Anorexia nervosa is an eating disorder that causes people to obsess about their weight and the food they eat. People with anorexia nervosa attempt to maintain a weight that's far below normal for their age and height. To prevent weight gain or to continue losing weight, people with anorexia nervosa may starve themselves or exercise excessively.

Anorexia nervosa can be difficult to overcome. But with treatment, you can gain a better sense of who you are, return to healthier eating habits and reverse some of anorexia's serious complications.

No matter how weight loss is achieved, anorexia has a number of physical, emotional and behavioral signs and symptoms.

-Physical anorexia symptoms

-Physical signs and symptoms of anorexia include:

- Extreme weight loss
- Thin appearance
- Abnormal blood counts
- Fatigue
- Insomnia
- Dizziness or fainting
- A bluish discoloration of the fingers
- Hair that thins, breaks or falls out

-Soft, downy hair covering the body

- Absence of menstruation
- Constipation
- Dry skin
- Intolerance of cold
- Irregular heart rhythms
- Low blood pressure
- Dehydration
- Osteoporosis
- Swelling of arms or legs
- Emotional and behavioral anorexia symptoms

Emotional and behavioral characteristics associated with anorexia include:

- Refusal to eat
- Denial of hunger
- Afraid of gaining weight
- Lying about how much food has been eaten
- Excessive exercise
- Flat mood (lack of emotion)
- Social withdrawal
- Irritability
- Preoccupation with food
- Reduced interest in sex
- Depressed mood
- Possible use of laxatives, diet aids or herbal products

Complications of anorexia include:

- Death
- Anemia
- Heart problems, such as mitral valve prolapse, abnormal heart rhythms and heart failure
- Bone loss, increasing risk

of fractures later in life

-In females, absence of a period

-In males, decreased testosterone

-Gastrointestinal problems, such as constipation, bloating or nausea

-Electrolyte abnormalities, such as low blood potassium, sodium and chloride

-Kidney problems

In addition to the host of physical complications, people with anorexia also commonly have other mental disorders as well. They may include:

- Depression
- Anxiety disorders
- Personality disorders
- Obsessive-compulsive disorders
- Drug abuse

If you notice a family member or friend with low self-esteem, severe dieting habits and dissatisfaction with appearance, consider talking to him or her about these issues. Although you may not be able to prevent an eating disorder from developing, you can talk about healthier behavior or seeking treatment options.

-- A Mediterranean diet, high in fruits, vegetables, a limited amount of fish and cereal, olive oil and nuts, was found to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease in high-risk population by as much as 30 percent, according to a study, published yesterday in the New England Journal of Medicine. The Mediterranean Diet asks eaters to follow a pyramid that emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, olive oil, beans, nuts, legumes, seeds, herbs and spices. People are asked to eat fish and seafood at least two times a week, consume poultry, eggs, cheese and yogurt in moderate daily to weekly amounts and avoid red meats and sweets when they can. Drinking plenty of water and having wine in moderation are also encouraged.



Putin signs law banning smoking in public places

MOSCOW (AFP) - President Vladimir Putin has signed a law banning smoking in public places in Russia from June, a cornerstone of the government's bid to improve public health in the nicotine-addicted country, the Kremlin said Monday.

The move follows similar anti-smoking legislation adopted in the last years by several EU states, but will require a major lifestyle change for Russians long used to smoking almost anywhere they liked.

The law, which will take effect in two stages, makes smoking illegal in restaurants, cafes, hotels, trains and a host of other places.

From June 1, 2014, the ban will be stepped up to include ships, long-distance trains, train platforms, hotels, cafes and restaurants, places where Russians still smoke plentifully.

Many Russians currently get through long-distance train journeys by smoking at the end of carriages where smoking is allowed despite being banned in compartments.

Very few restaurants and cafes are completely non-smoking, sometimes offering, at best, a smoking area and non-smoking area that is sometimes tucked away in an unappealing section at the back.

The law will also ban the advertising of tobacco products as well as sponsorship of events by tobacco firms. It will also forbid laying out cigarette packs openly in store displays or selling them in kiosks.

The health ministry is also hoping that the law will cut the number of annual deaths in Russia from smoking from the current 400,000 to 150,000-200,000.

Vastly more men than women smoke in Russia, with 60 percent of males smoking and just 20 percent of women, according to the World Health Organisation.

According to the WHO, Russia in 2010 had the fourth most smokers of any country in the world, accounting for 4.4 percent of the world's smokers. However it was still well behind China, which accounted for 28 percent of the world's smokers.

Sci-Tech

Lightning-fast mobile hits speed bump in Europe

BARCELONA (AFP) - Lightning-fast fourth generation mobile networks are spreading rapidly worldwide, led by the United States, Japan and South Korea, but Europe lags behind and its economic crisis could brake investment, an industry report said Monday.

Next generation Long Term Evolution, or LTE, networks promise download speeds to mobile phone users as fast as fixed broadband connections, opening the way to new mobile services such as high-definition videos with no buffering lag.

But the new networks need significant new investment by operators, and Europe has fallen behind, industry analysts IDATE said in a 2013 report.

By mid 2012, 26.5 million people were subscribing to LTE services, it said.

US operators led by Verizon Wireless had 13 million customers on the new LTE networks, South Korean operators had 7.5 million subscribers and Japanese operators 3.4 million, it said.

But the report, released on the opening day of the world's biggest mobile fair in Barcelona, Spain, showed the biggest users of LTE networks

in Europe were Germany and Sweden with 300,000 each, while Austria logged just 180,000.

An even faster technology, known as LTE Advanced, or True 4G, is expected to be rolled out this year with the United States, Japan and South Korea once again the front-runners, it said.

Some 350 mobile operators were now investing in LTE in 104 countries, the report said.

Europe had once been a leader, with TeliaSonera launching the first fourth-generation network in Sweden and Norway at the end of 2009. But no longer.

"LTE is now a 'must have': operators which do not adopt the technology will lose ground in their market and will not benefit from the economies provided by LTE," IDATE warned.

Most operators were investing in LTE to gain additional capacity and drive down costs, it said.

A new generation of smartphones was now available in all main markets with the capacity to link to the new networks, removing a key obstacle to growth, IDATE said.



PARIS (AFP) - Scientists said Sunday they had found traces of a micro-continent hidden underneath the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. The slab, dubbed Mauritia, was probably formed around 61-83 million years ago after Madagascar split from India, but eventually broke up and became smothered by thick lava deposits, they said. In a study published in the journal Nature Geoscience, scientists analysed beach sand on Mauritius that contained ancient zircons between 660 million and about two billion years old. The Indian Ocean floor may be littered with hidden land fragments that broke off as the once super-continent Pangea split up and formed the continents we know today, the paper suggests. Pangea began to rift about 200 million years ago, yielding Gondwana in the south and Laurasia in the north. Gondwana in turn split into Madagascar, Australia, Antarctica and India between 80 and 130 million years ago. The new study suggests that Mauritia became detached when Madagascar and India split up. The Seychelles, it adds, could be like Mauritia -- another continental fragment that, however, is visible.


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Visa, Samsung announce global deal for mobile payments



BARCELONA (AFP) - US credit card giant Visa announced Monday a global alliance with Samsung to let shoppers make payments by waving their smartphones near a special reader.

The deal could significantly boost the long-touted use of smartphones to pay for goods worldwide without any physical contact, and without the need either for credit cards or cash, it said.

The system could be used by owners of Samsung smart phones equipped with a technology known as Near Field Communication, or NFC, which lets a phone transmit information to a nearby reader without touching it.

The success of the new system agreed between Visa and Samsung, the world's leading smartphone manufacturer, will still depend on whether banks can be persuaded to use it.

Visa said the deal had the potential to "significantly accelerate" the availability of mobile payments globally, noting a forecast by ABI Re-

search that 1.95 billion NFC-enabled devices will ship in 2017.

Visa revealed the agreement on the first day of the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, which is trying to raise awareness of the advantages of NFC, including by letting participants use "NFC badges" on their mobiles to enter.

Some in the industry were sceptical about NFC's usefulness, however.

The agreement with Samsung is the first of its kind between a leading manufacturer of NFC-enabled smartphones and a payment network, Visa said.

Under the deal, Samsung will equip the next generation of its mobile devices with Visa payment technology, including by pre-loading Visa's contactless payment system -- Visa payWave -- in its mobiles in a mini-programme known as an applet.

Samsung will let banks send payment account information over the airwaves to a secure microchip embedded in its devices. Banks will use a secure system relying on Visa's so-called Mobile Provisioning Service and Samsung's key management system.



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COMICS

PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. Sound from a flock
4. Partner of "to"
7. Physics, e.g. (abbr.)
10. Dull, steady pain
12. Give temporarily
14. Raised railways
15. Genuine
16. Kitchen follower
17. "Give ___ break!" (2 wds.)

18. Churchill's sign

20. Like (2 wds.)

22. Extra great

25. Evils

27. Locket prize

28. Not as big

32. Birthday number

33. Have a cold

34. Compass letters

35. Out of control

38. Bawls

40. Location

41. "...I met a man who ___ there"

42. Gentle

44. Churchill's title

45. Ford Focus, e.g.

46. Red-coated cheese

49. Wine-exporting

- valley

53. ___ Lanka

54. Ready to reap

55. Cabbage salad

56. Pacino and Capone

57. Width of Shaq's shoes

58. Dined

DOWN

1. Shut out

2. Crack aviator

3. "Just as I thought!"

4. Hightail it

5. On a pension (abbr.)

6. Toronto's province (abbr.)

7. Truck stop sighting

8. Treble ___

9. "The Lady ___ Tramp" (2 wds.)

11. Santa's helpers

13. Distributed

19. Sounds from a poor speaker

21. Concorde letters

22. Dagger thrust

23. Prod

24. One's equal

25. "What ___ About You" (2 wds.)

26. Like Capp's Abner

29. Majors and Marvin

30. Cable sports network

31. Relaxation

33. ___ gallery

36. ID digits

37. Downy duck

38. Intl. conflict

39. Makes money

42. Actor Malden

43. Spring flower

44. Hook's right hand

45. Civil War side (abbr.)

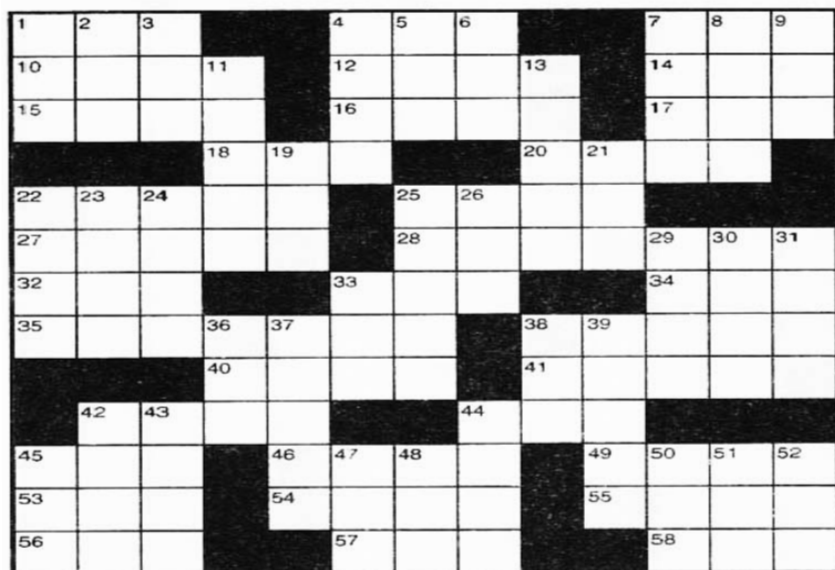
47. "___ Hard"

48. Chimpanzee, e.g.

50. Chicken ___ king (2 wds.)

51. Greet one's dog

52. Gasp cause



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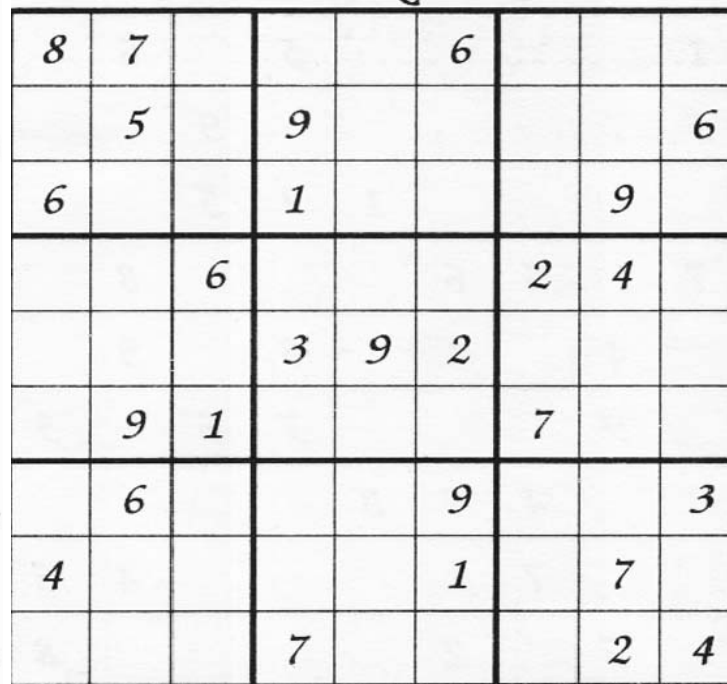
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	7	6	5	9	3	2	4	1
5	9	6	1	2	4	3	7	8
6	1	9	3	2	4	5	7	8
6	2	4	3	9	1	7	5	8
3	9	2	1	7	5	8	4	6
9	1	7	8	4	6	5	3	2
2	4	3	7	5	8	1	6	9
7	5	8	1	2	4	3	6	9
1	6	9	8	3	7	5	2	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 02/25/2013

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.74
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	193.93
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	239.33
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.50
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.32
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	32.29
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	191.47

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Cutting smoking saves more in health bills than lost tax: EU

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The cost and health benefits of getting people not to smoke and better still, not to start, more than outweigh the taxes the tobacco industry pays to governments, the European Commission said Monday.

Irish Health Minister James Reilly, presenting the EU's new draft tobacco law in the European parliament, said smokers paid some 20 billion euros (\$26.4 billion) annually in tax but health costs associated with smoking came to 23 billion euros.

On top of that were another eight billion euros in lost production and other costs due to smokers' higher rates of sickness, leading to days off and lower efficiency.

It is a "no-brainer, ethically and economically," Reilly told parliament, dismissing out of hand the argument that tobacco is too important economically to be tampered with.

EU Health Commissioner Tonio Borg made the same point, noting that some 700,000 people die prematurely as a result of smoking each year -- equal to a city about the size of Frankfurt in Germany.

The new tobacco directive,

which parliament and all 27 member states will have to approve, aims simply to save those lives, Borg said, adding that the legislation needed to be brought up to date as the industry introduces new products, especially those targeting the young.

Accordingly, the directive stipulates that 75 percent of a cigarette package must carry health warnings, and that certain "characterising" flavours such as vanilla or menthol be banned.

In January, thousands of tobaccoists from across Europe marched on European Union headquarters to protest against the planned directive which will take about three years to come into effect once passed.

Nobel prize for discovering DNA up for auction

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Nobel prize awarded to Francis Crick in 1962 for discovering the structure of DNA has been put up for auction by his family along with one of his lab coats, his books and other memorabilia.

It is believed to be the first Nobel prize placed at auction in more than 70 years and the opening bid is set for \$250,000, Heritage Auctions said Monday.

Some of the proceeds from the April 10 auction in New York will help fund research at the new Francis Crick Institute in London set to be completed in 2015.

His family said Crick was a modest man who preferred to

BARCELONA (AFP) - Credit card giant MasterCard announced Monday the launch of a new digital payment system that lets people use a wide variety of devices including smartphones to spend their money.

The system, known as MasterPass, stores customers' banking and personal information in a "secure cloud" online where it is available for the moment of payment whether in a store or when browsing the Internet, the group said.

Banks and stores will be able to issue MasterPass-connected "digital wallets" to their customers, the group said on the opening day of the four-day Mobile World Congress, the world's biggest mobile fair, in Barcelona, Spain.

The system will also accept credit and debit card information, including cards other than MasterCard's.

Shoppers would be able to use the system on the web without having to key in their bank information and delivery address for each purchase.

But they also could make payments with the new system in other ways, including by waving a smartphone equipped with Near Field Communications, or NFC, technology near a special reader.

The system will be launched by financial institutions in Australia and Canada by the end of March, in the United States in spring and

Britain in the summer before expanding to other markets including Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Italy, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and Sweden, MasterCard said.

MasterCard said the new system was supported by banks including Banco Santander, BBVA, BNP, and Citi.

"For mobile money often the most innovative markets have been emerging markets rather than developed markets," said Ian Fogg, senior mobile analyst at research house IHS.

"What is interesting is the shift where you see people like Visa and Mastercard getting interested and involved," he said.

Pork found in Swiss kebabs, Islamic group shocked

GENEVA (AFP) - A Swiss laboratory has discovered traces of pork in seven out of twenty tests carried out on kebabs sold in several of the country's cities, local Muslim authorities announced Monday, expressing shock about the finding.

"Sample analysis show a very low proportion" of pork meat, or less than 0.1 percent, the Swiss Central Islamic Council (CCIS) said in a statement.



Islamic tradition forbids the consumption of pork.

The group said it believes the traces of pork are the unintentional result of gaps in the production process, saying equipment used to handle the meat may have been used to also manufacture the kebabs.

CCIS staff said they were "shocked" by the discovery de-

riving from random tests carried out in Basel, Biel, Geneva, Kreuzlingen, Lausanne, Lucerne, Winterthur and Zurich.

The organisation ordered the test sampling after being "alarmed by the scandal that recently erupted in Germany where seven percent of pork meat was found in meat for kebabs."



BOGOTA (AFP) - President Juan Manuel Santos appealed for dialogue Monday to temper a protest strike by Colombian coffee growers angry over losses from falling coffee prices. Since Sunday, thousands of growers from around Colombia have been mobilizing for a march to demand that the government increase subsidies and curb coffee imports. Growers in Colombia, one of the world's top coffee producers, have been hard hit by a 35 percent drop in prices on the international market last year and a 10 percent revaluation of the peso, the national currency. An estimated 560,000 families owe their livelihoods to coffee, for decades one of Colombia's biggest exports. Production fell 12 percent in 2011 and less than one percent last year, with total production at the close of the year at 462 metric tons.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	S	P		G	E	R		E	M	T
N	O	A	H		E	V	A	N	K	I
D	A	R	E		T	E	N	E	M	E
K	A	R	L	S		D	D	E		
	C	R	U	M	B		S	A	C	K
M	P	H		M	A	L	E		T	O
E	A	U		P	R	O	N	G		N
W	I	T	S		T	O	G	O		C
	L	E	E	K		M	I	T	Z	I
	A	I	R		N	O	I	S		Y
I	N	U	N	D	A	T	E		N	E
K	E	N		S	M	E	E		C	L
E	G	O		P	E	R			Y	R

'Argo' wins best picture on shared Oscars night



HOLLYWOOD (L-R): Best Actor Daniel Day-Lewis stands with Best Actress Jennifer Lawrence, Best Supporting Actress Anne Hathaway, and Best Supporting Actor Christoph Waltz.

HOLLYWOOD (AFP) - Ben Affleck's Iran hostage drama "Argo" won the coveted best film Oscar late Sunday, while Daniel Day-Lewis took a record third best actor prize at the 85th Academy Awards, Hollywood's biggest night.

Taiwan-born Ang Lee won best director for his spectacular 3D fantasy "Life of Pi," while Jennifer Lawrence was crowned best actress for "Silver Linings Playbook."

But veteran filmmaker Steven Spielberg, whose presidential drama had the most nominations with 12 nods, went home from Hollywood's biggest awards show with only two awards, best actor and a technical prize for production design.

Overall, "Life of Pi" won the most Oscars with four, against three for "Argo" and "Les Miserables," two each for "Django Unchained" and "Lincoln," and one for "Zero Dark Thirty."

In a heavily musical show, Adele sang Oscar-winning 007 theme "Skyfall" and Shirley Bassey belted out "Goldfinger" to mark 50 years of Bond films, while Barbra Streisand sang "The Way We Were," her first Oscars turn for 36 years.

In an unexpected move, the best picture winner was announced by First Lady Michelle Obama, addressing the Oscars show -- and final presenter, legend Jack Nicholson -- by videolink from the White House.

Affleck, whose movie had taken virtually all of the top prizes during Hollywood's awards season over the last two months, paid tribute to Spielberg in his acceptance

speech.

"Steven Spielberg, I want to acknowledge, I feel is a genius and a towering talent among us," said Affleck, who was not nominated for best director or best actor at the Oscars, in a perceived snub.

He notably thanked former CIA agent Tony Mendez, whom he played in the movie, spearheading a bold mission to rescue six US diplomats, who took refuge in the Canadian embassy in Tehran amid the 1979 hostage crisis.

Iran, which has condemned "Argo" as propaganda directed against it, and state media branded the win as "the most political Oscar ever."

"Life of Pi," about a boy cast adrift in a boat in the Pacific with only a Bengal tiger for company, was shot largely in Taiwan, but the director played up the film's cosmopolitan crew.

Within minutes of his win, Taiwan Culture Minister Lung Ying-tai sent a congratulatory telegram to Lee, probably the island's most famous living son, saying: "We feel very proud of you."

Lawrence, star of the "Hunger Games" franchise, got a standing ovation as she took to the stage, after she stumbled on her way up the stairs.

She beat fellow nominees including the youngest ever best actress Oscar nominee, nine-year-old Quvenzhané Wallis, and the oldest ever, French star Emmanuelle Riva, who celebrated her 86th birthday Sunday.

Day-Lewis, who had been widely expected to win best actor, appeared to fight back

tears as he took the stage as the first man to win three best actor Oscars -- his others were for "My Left Foot" in 1990 and 2007's "There Will Be Blood"

He is notorious for his meticulous preparation for roles, often spending months fully in character even before filming starts.

Austrian director Michael Haneke's Cannes-winning "Amour," starring Riva as an elderly woman being cared for by her husband as her health slowly deteriorates, won the best foreign language film prize at the Oscars.

Best supporting actor went to Austrian Christoph Waltz, who played a dentist turned bounty hunter in Quentin Tarantino's blood-spattered spaghetti western tribute "Django Unchained." Tarantino won for best original screenplay.

Ann Hathaway won best supporting actress -- and joined fellow "Les Miserables" cast members in singing hits from the movie. The cast of "Chicago" also reunited in song, on the 10th anniversary of its best picture Oscar win.

The best animated feature film award went to Scottish-themed "Brave," which beat fellow nominees including video game adventure "Wreck-It Ralph," which had been tipped as the marginal frontrunner.

Affleck -- the first person to win best picture without being nominated as director since "Driving Miss Daisy" in 1990 -- had been given a diplomatic boost Saturday when new US Secretary of State John Kerry tweeted best wishes.



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Michelle Obama's dance moves go viral on YouTube



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A video clip of First Lady Michelle Obama grooving with a dressed-in-drag Jimmy Fallon on his late-night comedy talk show has gone viral on YouTube Saturday.

In the video, the pair, each clad in conservative slacks and cardigans, and Fallon with a long brown-haired wig, perform a routine dubbed "Evolution of Mom Dancing," to promote Obama's "Let's Move!" youth fitness and nutrition campaign.

The dance moves -- with names like "The 'Go Shopping, Get Groceries,'" and "The 'Out of Sync Electric Slide'" according to titles splashed on the bottom of the screen -- progress from a simple side-to-side step and end with Fallon stalking off set as Obama rocks a smooth "Dougie."

The clip, which has already

been viewed more than 850,000 times since being posted Friday and "liked" more than 11,000 times, has prompted effusive comments about the first lady and her first family.

"For the first time... we have a first lady with soul," wrote zestydude87.

And Rina Lubit wrote, "it may be just me but i really love the presidential family. they just really seem like sincerely good and chill people."

Obesity is a major health problem in the United States, where one in three adults and almost one in five children is overweight.

Among other initiatives for "Let's Move," the first lady, an attorney by training, has planted the White House's first garden since World War II and written a book with healthy recipes.



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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Sport

Tennis: Djokovic admits he is a relieved man



DUBAI (AFP) - Novak Djokovic may be the runaway world number one right now, and favourite to take away Roger Federer's title here at the Dubai Open this week, but he has started this year a relieved man.

Djokovic, who should meet Federer in Saturday's final, has been less worried by the reputation of the sport's greatest legend than by his own.

The 25-year-old Serbian's sensational spell of success in becoming a triple Grand Slam titleholder within one season left him feeling, he says, that he might never live up to the new image of himself which suddenly emerged.

"I do feel relief more than when I started 2012," he admitted. "Following 2011 was an extreme challenge - mentally mostly."

"I found myself for the first time in the position of being number one in the world and defending a Grand Slam title - three in a whole year, so that was very challenging."

"So I consider finishing number one in 2012 an even bigger success than in 2011, and I feel I learned a lesson. I understand the experience I went through and I am ready for new challenges."

It was also a brief relief that Djokovic was also able to focus a little on someone else's difficulties. They were those of his younger brother Marko, whom he partnered in the men's doubles.

It was though a slightly surreal experience. On an outside court, which enabled the spectators to watch the world's number one player without paying, the match took place amidst angry gusts of wind, swishing trees, and at the end, as dusk fell, swooping birds.

Marko Djokovic, aged 21, has risen more than 200 places in the rankings since playing singles here last year, and is at 662 and rising. But he and Novak lost 4-6, 6-3, 10-4 to Nikolay Davydenko of Russia and Dick Norman of Belgium, and the burden of brotherly comparisons remains immense.

"I have to say it is hard because people compare him to me," says Novak. "In the junior tournaments and all these years he has been playing tennis he's been compared to me when I was that age, and it's absolutely different."

There is even a feeling of familiarity when the world number one starts his singles campaign here Tuesday. His first round is against Viktor Troicki, a close friend with whom he grew up in Belgrade and who he has faced many times.

Part of Djokovic's mind strays to the increased possibility, in the current absence of a fully fit Rafael Nadal, of completing a career Grand Slam by winning the French Open in three months time. He does, though, try to resist it.

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Corinthians fan admits causing flare death during Bolivia match

SAO PAULO (AFP) - A Corinthians teenage fan has confessed to causing the flare death of a 14-year-old during the Sao Paulo side's Libertadores Cup game in Bolivia last week.

In an interview aired on Brazil's Globo TV late Sunday, the 17-year-old took responsibility for the death of 14-year-old Kevin Espada during Wednesday's 1-1 draw between Corinthians and San Jose in the Bolivian city of Oruro.

In the wake of the incident, Bolivian police detained 12 other traveling Corinthians fans.

"We were celebrating the (Corinthians) goal. I took the flare from my bag, pulled on the cord, didn't quite know how to use it. It took off in the direction of the Bolivian fans," said the adolescent, who had his face hidden and was accompanied by his mother.

Saying he only learnt of the accidental death after the game, the youth asked for forgiveness from the victim's family and from those of the detained Brazilian fans.

Conmebol, the South American football's governing body, has meanwhile ordered Corinthians to play their home Libertadores Cup matches behind closed doors until further notice.

Fans of the Sao Paulo club will also be prevented from buying tickets for away matches.

Ricardo Cabral, a lawyer for Gavioes da Fiel, Corinthians's biggest organized fan club, said the youth, identified only as H.A.M., would turn himself in to Brazilian authorities later Monday. Corinthians won the Libertadores Cup for the first time last July and went on to beat Chelsea in the final of the Club World Cup in Japan in December.

Football: Maradona ends Italian exile

MILAN (AFP) - Diego Maradona on Monday ended his controversial exile from Italy, where he famously led Napoli to their sole titles in the Serie A football championship.

The Argentine World Cup winner had rarely stepped foot in Italy since leaving under a cloud in the 1990s amid claims of collusion with mafia dons and a positive drugs test for cocaine.

It was later claimed by the Italian authorities that Maradona owed the state millions of euros (dollars, pounds) in unpaid taxes.

Dozens of fans had turned up to see the Argentinian, many of whom shouted "Welcome back!" as he was driven away.

One fan in particular wearing Juventus colours caught Maradona's attention. The champions travel to Naples to face Napoli on Friday night.

"When we used to play against Juventus, we were always scared," Maradona is reported to have jokingly said to the fan while shaking his hand.

Maradona is set to watch his former club in Udinese on Monday and will then give a news conference on Tuesday, at which he is expected to speak about the tax issue.

Maradona was convicted in 2005 and ordered to pay 37.2 million euros (\$50.4 million), including 23.5 million euros in interest for late payments.

His lawyer recently claimed the Italian authorities had cleared the debt, thus allowing him to return to the country. But the tax authorities denied the claims.

Napoli, with whom Maradona won the league title in both 1987 and 1990, currently sit second in Serie A seven points behind leaders and champions Juventus.

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Football: Udinese put brakes on Napoli in Serie A

MILAN (AFP) - Udinese held challengers Napoli to a scoreless draw on Monday to leave leaders Juventus with a six-point cushion at the top of Serie A.

Napoli had hoped to capitalise on the extra day's rest after their Europa League exit at the hands of Czech side Viktoria Plzen last Thursday to close the gap to four points.

However Walter Mazzarri's title challengers were left lamenting several missed chances on their way to dropping two points and boosting both Juve and third-placed AC Milan, who are now only seven points adrift.

The Partenopei underlined their intentions by starting

with the attack-minded front trio of striker Edinson Cavani, Lorenzo Insigne and Marek Hamsik.

But the visitors were left frustrated after a first half in which Udinese seemed happy to sit back and defend and wait to counter-attack.

Early on Cavani failed to make contact despite a sly run towards goal when Gian-domenico Mesto aimed in a cross.

Udinese did hit Napoli on the counter, but both Antonio Di Natale and Giovanni Pasquale sent their efforts high and wide respectively.

Napoli, however, had the momentum and after Gokhan Inler sent a long range effort

over from long-range Hamsik missed the best chance of the half when he headed a long cross from the left straight at 'keeper Daniele Padelli.

Udinese started in more positive fashion after the break and came close just five minutes in although Argentine Roberto Pereyra wasted Antonio Di Natale's cross by firing into the stands from close range.

Napoli regained control but just couldn't finish the job despite a number of promising offensives, with Cavani spurning a late chance with 15 minutes on the clock after a great move down the left with Colombian Pablo Armero.

Formula One: McLaren install Goss as technical director

LONDON (AFP) - McLaren announced on Monday that Tim Goss has been appointed as the British team's new technical director and will replace Mercedes-bound Paddy Lowe at the end of the year.

Mercedes are still to confirm Lowe's arrival, but McLaren team principal Martin Whitmarsh thanked him for his work with the team.

"Paddy has been a good and successful technical director and we wish him well when he embarks on a fresh challenge in 2014," he said.

Formerly McLaren's director of engineering, Goss joined the team in 2000 and has contributed to five drivers' championship successes and three constructors' world titles.

"His quiet and unassuming persona conceals a fierce competitiveness and a wealth

of experience, coupled to an unrivalled level of expertise in the field of Formula One car design and engineering," said Whitmarsh.

Lowe's departure seems certain to create speculation about the role of Mercedes team principal Ross Brawn, who has had to defend his position in recent weeks after Toto Wolff was appointed head of motorsport.

Whitmarsh said that Lowe "will be performing a different role" during the final year of his contract with McLaren, without providing further details.

He added: "I firmly believe our technical and engineering team is the best in the F1 business and that its strength in depth has always been, and will continue to be, an important element of our on-track success."

Scenery at NASCAR Daytona 500



Jimmie Johnson celebrates after winning the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, Sunday



Danica Patrick displays the flag after winning the pole during qualifying for the NASCAR Daytona 500 on Friday



Kyle Larson (32) goes into the catch fence during a crash involving, among others, Justin Allgaier (31), Brian Scott (2), Parker Kligerman (77) and Dale Earnhardt Jr. (88) at the conclusion of the NASCAR Nationwide Series auto race Saturday

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NBA: Bryant reaches milestone, Lakers beat Mavs



DALLAS (AFP) - Kobe Bryant scored a game-high 38 points and became the youngest player in NBA history to surpass the 31,000-point mark as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks 103-99 on Sunday.

Five-time NBA champion Bryant, who scored 14 of his points in the final quarter, also had 12 rebounds and seven as-

sists and reached the 31,000 milestone at 34 years, 185 days.

Hall of Famer Wilt Chamberlain had the old mark at 36 years, 164 days.

Steve Nash finished with 20 points and Dwight Howard grabbed 13 rebounds and nine points for the Lakers, who have won five straight games in Dallas. Nash is playing with

a sore back.

Dirk Nowitzki had 30 points and 13 rebounds for Dallas, who had their three-game win streak snapped.

Veteran Vince Carter and Elton Brand scored 15 and 14 points respectively.

Dallas trailed by two 99-97 with just over a minute to play. Bryant and Nowitzki then exchanged field goals, and after Metta World Peace made one of two free throws, the Mavericks had the ball down by three with 16.8 seconds to play.

OJ Mayo got an open shot at a corner three, but his attempt missed and Bryant grabbed the rebound before sinking one-of-two at the line to seal the outcome.

Bryant, a 15-time All-Star, finished just shy of posting his sixth 40-point game this season.

With Bryant carrying the load offensively, the Lakers have won three straight contests as they battle to get into playoff contention.

Bryant scored 40 points in a 111-107 win over Portland on Friday.

The loss also snapped the Mavericks' string of six consecutive games scoring at least 100 points and it was just the third time in the last 19 contests they did not reach 100 points.

glar. Pistorius has to inform a prisons official of his movements within Pretoria and needs permission to leave the capital. He has been banned from leaving the country.

Officials are to meet the runner at his uncle's house in Pretoria on Saturday to confirm the address where he is staying.

The athlete's father Henke told AFP in a telephone call on Monday that matters were "under control".

The shooting has riveted South Africa and the world, bringing Pistorius' career and endorsements to a halt.

Pistorius meets probation officials, talks training

PRETORIA (AFP) - Star athlete Oscar Pistorius met South African probation officers on Monday at the Pretoria Magistrate's Court to discuss the terms of his release on bail, and discussed conditions to restart training as he awaits trial for the murder of his girlfriend, a prisons spokesman said.

The Olympic and Paralympic sprinter denies the charge of intentionally killing his girlfriend, insisting that he repeatedly shot at Steenkamp through a locked bathroom door in the dead of night having mistaken her for a bur-

NHL: 'Hawks blank Columbus to extend streak



CHICAGO (AFP) - The Chicago Blackhawks extended their record for the best start in league history, shutting out the Columbus Blue Jackets 1-0 Sunday behind a 28-save performance by goaltender Corey Crawford.

Chicago has now recorded at least one point in 18 consecutive games to begin the National Hockey League regular season.

Crawford posted his second shutout of the season as he made his first start since February 12.

Andrew Shaw scored the only goal for Chicago who improved to 5-0-1 in their seven-game home stand which continues against the Edmon-

ton Oilers on Monday.

Steve Mason stopped 26-of-27 shots for Columbus, who have lost nine consecutive games to Chicago.

Columbus dropped to 2-8-0 as the road team this season.

Bryan Bickell set up Shaw from behind the net with 1:27 remaining in the second period for the Blackhawks' only goal on the game.

Crawford made 13 saves in the second period for Chicago, who are 7-0-1 at the United Center arena this season.

The Blue Jackets had chances to tie the game but went zero-for-three on the power play in the third period. Columbus finished zero-for-five with the man advantage.

Football: 13 hurt in Argentine football shooting

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - A shootout involving fans of Argentine top flight sides Tigre and River Plate injured 13 people, two seriously, local authorities said Monday.

The shooting, which a non-governmental organisation put down to the work of a criminal gang, took place in the northern Buenos Aires suburb of Victoria before Sunday evening's match at River's

Monumental.

"This is about money and control of important business. These mafia are tolerated by the clubs, and they are armed," Monica Nizzardo, of the Save Football ONG, told AFP, saying the criminals were involved in mafia-like activities including drug trafficking.

"The clubs' directors bear

much of the responsibility. So do the Argentine Football Association, the judiciary and the police," added Nizzardo, who calculates football violence in Argentina has claimed 165 lives since 1979.

In another incident last weekend, a bus carrying players from third tier side Excursionistas was fired on as it returned to the capital. Nobody was hurt.